

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY**  
**INFORMATIONAL REPORT**  
**PRESENTATION ON THE**

**Middle School Innovation**

Monday, February 12, 2024

Background:

Middle School Reform efforts began as far back as 2002 with the Comprehensive Secondary School Reform Program, commonly known as CSSRP. Recommendations were provided through this work to improve middle schools in Harford County. The work continued in 2008 with the Middle School Reform Committee, which built on the work that had not been completed from CSSRP. Again, recommendations were made which supported the work from Breaking Ranks in the Middle: Strategies for Leading Middle School Reform. Unfortunately, staff cuts over the years have resulted in inconsistent implementation of the recommendations from CSSRP and the Middle School Reform efforts. In fall of 2021, HCPS applied for the LEADS Program through the Maryland State Department of Education in order to continue and improve upon the work of middle school innovation. Under the Reimagining Use of Time high leverage strategy, HCPS was awarded money to support the middle school innovation work.

Discussion:

This presentation provides an overview of the first phase of the Middle School Innovation. This initiative supports the College and Career Readiness standards, specifically Pillar 3 for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. With the expansion of Unified Arts through career exploration and the addition of an advisory period, and World Languages, middle school students will be better prepared for the opportunities and expectations for success in high school. All stakeholder groups involved in this work have been instrumental in moving this work forward.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Schools recommends the Board of Education accept this informational report on the HCPS Middle School Innovation.